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MARCH MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 11th inst., in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts., at eight o'clock. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will be a lecture by Mr. Ansel F. Hall, Chief Naturalist, United States National Park Service, on "Getting Acquainted with the Out-of-Doors, in Our National Parks". Those who have availed themselves of the excellent "Handbook of Yosemite National Park" will be glad to greet the editor and author of the section on Trees, in person. Visitors will be made welcome.

* * *

MARCH FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, March 14th, to Point Bonita. This is one of the most delightful trips on our schedule and several species of water bird are usually seen at the lighthouse, in addition to the land birds met on the way. The panorama of the Golden Gate is fascinating and beautiful. Take Sausalito Ferry, 8:15 a. m. Purchase round trip tickets to Sausalito, 25c. Bring lunch and canteens.

Route will be over the shore road to Fort Baker and Battery Spencer; thence by trail overlooking the ocean, to Fort Barry and Rodeo Lagoon, where lunch will be eaten on the ocean beach; thence to the lighthouse and return via road and tunnel to Sausalito, a distance of about six miles each way. Those who desire may ride either way by motor bus.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING: The one hundred-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held on February 11th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mr. I. M. Parry, Secretary; twelve members and one guest in attendance, in spite of the wretched weather.

The Secretary reported a meeting of the Board of Directors, on February 10th, at which Miss A. F. Boegle, of Berkeley, was elected to membership and the three candidates for honorary membership were unanimously recommended for election. Thereupon, the following gentlemen were elected by the meeting as Honorary Members of the Association: Messrs. Joseph Dixon, of Berkeley; Joseph Mailliard, of San Francisco, and H. W. Carriger, of Oakland.

Dr. B. W. Evermann, Past Honorary President of the Association then entertained the members with a most interesting account of "Bird Studies, Forty Years Ago", by Mrs. Evermann and himself, in the course of which, conditions at that time were sharply contrasted with those obtaining at present. Commencing in 1877, Mrs. Evermann had collected in Indiana for two years, with a trip to Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Early in

1879, Dr. Evermann made a trip to Kansas, studying and collecting the prairie birds. On August 16, 1879, he and Mrs. Evermann settled in Santa Paula, Ventura County, California, where school was taught during five days in the week, followed by a trip on Saturday, up or down the Santa Clara river or through the neighboring territory.

Within sight of their house were nesting some fifty Brewer blackbirds, with hooded and Bullock orioles, Arkansas and Cassin flycatchers. Quail were profuse, as were towhees, thrashers and white-crowned sparrows. Yellow-headed blackbirds were numerous, but in evidence only in the early mornings. Hawks were interesting and numerous. The red-tailed nested in Santa Paula canyon, at mid-height of 200-foot cliffs, sub-letting apartments to linnets which built their nests immediately underneath those of the hawks. Red-bellied hawks were less numerous, and nested higher up the cliffs. Sparrow hawks were plentiful and the white-tailed kite was common here in the '80s, nesting in the cottonwood trees.

Of the owls, the great horned, long-eared, burrowing and barn were most abundant. The barn owls nested in holes in the sides of a barranca, where eleven nests were encountered in one day, early in March, and a flock of fifty were found in one pepper tree. The long-eared owls made their homes in old crow nests, the height of the season coming as early as February 13th. One burrowing owl's nest was found containing eleven eggs. Yellow-billed magpies were present in great numbers, favoring willow trees for their nests, but they are now practically extinct in Ventura county. Cactus wrens nested in prickly cactus on rocky plateaus, which are now all covered with orchards.

Condors were quite common in those days and a few years ago, Dr. Evermann found sixteen of these great birds in Sespe valley. One bushtit's nest was twenty-two inches long. One hundred or more white-throated swifts were occupying Santa Paula canyon, where the phainopeplas also nested in the oak trees. Road-runners were very abundant, with nests from one to five feet above ground in elderberries or low willows. At the time of which Dr. Evermann spoke, he had the district practically to himself, ornithologically. Cooper and Henshaw had birded there, but no other resident than himself was studying birds. Messrs. Sidney and Lawrence Peyton, M. C. Badger and J. S. Appleton have been much interested in birds of late, but the culture of the land by man has restricted the area of appropriate habitat and all of the birds mentioned are greatly lessened in numbers, while some of them are to be found no more. The old order giveth place to the new.

With expressions of pleasure and appreciation of Dr. Evermann's attendance in spite of the weather, the meeting adjourned.



HELP! LET EVERY MEMBER HELP,—NOW! HELP!

U. S. Senator R. N. Stanfield, of Oregon, has introduced a bill, S2584, with the plausible objects of "promoting the development, protection and utilization of grazing facilities on public lands, to stabilize the range stock-raising industry, and for other purposes", which sound very worthy until a careful analysis of the measure, which covers some thirty five pages, discloses the fact that these various things are to be accomplished for the sole benefit of sheep and cattle grazers now located on the public lands, and with no thought for the conservation of the forest and herbal growths, or of the mammals and birds which are dependent thereon for their very existence. As if this were not bad enough, the bill has been referred to the Public Lands Committee, of which *a majority constituted a special committee which wrote the bill!*

An analysis of the bill, made by the American Forestry Association, reduced to its simplest statement, shows:

1. That it puts grazing on a par with forestry as a primary use of the National Forests.
2. That it makes grazing grants equivalent to property rights.
3. That, where contracts are made on the "area basis," which it stresses, lessees would have exclusive right to determine the kind and number of their livestock and the length of their grazing seasons.
4. That the so-called "ten-year leases" are practically leases *in perpetuo*. This is shown,
 - (a) by giving the lessee the preference in renewal;
 - (b) by providing that, on the death of the lessee, the lease shall pass to his devisee or his estate; and
 - (c) by providing that leases may be sold or transferred.
5. That, at the terminations of the ten-year leases and their renewals, by limiting to five *per cent* the Forest Service's power to reduce the size of leased areas or the livestock grazed thereon, it practically excludes new settlers and communities forever from grazing privileges in National Forests.
6. That sole appeal from Forest Service decisions is to a State board of three, who must have practical knowledge of the livestock industry, and whose findings "shall be *prima facie* evidence of the correctness of the facts," and
7. That, for ten years, there shall be no increase of grazing fees over the present fees, which are only half the average fees now current outside federal grazing lands; and that these shall be reduced or abolished whenever it can be shown that adverse market conditions exist in the stock raising industry or any branch thereof.

Those of us who have seen what grazing has done and is doing in our mountain areas; how it is denuding areas essential for the support of our wild mammals and birds; how the denuded areas no longer restrain the speedy passage of water, to their own destruction, will need no other arguments for opposing a measure designed to hamstring the Forest Service in its efforts to protect and preserve our forest and herbal assets, and to derive from their proper use a revenue which shall be commensurate with the benefits derived from their occupation by a comparatively insignificant number of our population. In 1869, John Muir spent his first summer in the Sierra, as overseer of a herd of some two thousand sheep, and he thereafter termed them "hoofed locusts."

Every member is urged to address letters protesting against the passage of this measure or any other which shall restrict the Forest Service in its administration of grazing permits, to John B. Kendrick, Public Lands Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C. and to their own and other Senators and Representatives. The following is the personnel of the California delegation:

Senators: Hiram Johnson. Samuel Shortridge. U. S. Senate, Washington.

Representatives: Address, House of Representatives. Washington, D. C.

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|----------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Dist. 1. | Clarence F. Lea | Dist. 7. | Henry E. Barbour |
| 3. | Charles F. Curry | 8. | Arthur M. Free |
| 4. | Mrs. Florence P. Kahn | 9. | Walter E. Lineberger |
| 5. | Lawrence J. Flaherty | 10. | John D. Fredericks |
| 6. | Albert E. Carter | 11. | Phil D. Swing |

A. S. KIBBE.

THE GULL

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, February 14th to San Andreas Lake by way of Burlingame and return by trolley from San Bruno. The birds must have received the current issue of THE GULL for they were ready to show their feathers and sing their songs. St. Valentine allowed us a warm day following many wet ones. A small group of bird enthusiasts made up for the usual larger number.

The Allen hummingbirds, having recently arrived from Mexico and way stations, wanted to show Mrs. Ynes Mexia that they, too, had come north for the spring. Their towering stunts and display of insect-capturing activities culminated in the well-known "rusty hinge" sound as they swung thru the air.

Not to be outdone by the hummers, a California Thrasher favored us by strutting on one of the lawns and displaying the freshly laundered dress. Not satisfied with this, he turned to all compass directions and profiled himself for our benefit.

The road led thru the Crystal Springs district to the Skyline Boulevard. We ate our lunch here and enjoyed the pipits and meadowlarks while not otherwise occupied.

The adventure of the day came in the afternoon when we stalked the water birds of San Andreas Lake. We are accustomed to leave the pleasure of stalking to the Boy Scouts but hereafter the members of the Audubon Society must be reckoned as adepts in the sport. It was rare sport and a flock of Canada geese amply rewarded our efforts.

The life list of birds of most of the party was increased when we identified the Myrtle warbler in his correct colors and plumage. A view for fully seven minutes and the presence of several Audubon warblers to accentuate the few differences made the identification complete.

Weather conditions were ideal, barring a slight shower at San Andreas dam, the ground being firm enough for the heaviest of us. We mounted the cars for San Francisco well pleased with a day full of excitement and good birding.

Birds encountered were: Western and pied-bill grebes, glaucous-winged, western and California gulls; scaup, surf scoter, ruddy duck, great blue heron and coot; killdeer, California quail, marsh, red-tailed and sparrow hawks; red-shafted flicker, Anna, Allen and, perhaps, rufous hummers; Say and black phoebe, coast and California jays, meadowlark and Brewer blackbirds; purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, western savannah, Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows; junco, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees and California shrike; Hutton vireo, myrtle and Audubon warblers, pipit and California thrasher; Vigors wren, titmouse, chickadee, bush and wren-tits; ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, robin and western bluebird. Fifty-one species in all.

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Ethel Crum, Thomson; Mesdames Hall, Kibbe, Mexia and Myer; Messrs. Kibbe and Myer. As guests: John Ingram and Felix Juda. Eight members and two guests.

A. H. MYER, *Historian.*

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco
Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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